

Message Text

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ORIGIN AID-25

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TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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AFDROUGHT, OTTAWA FOR MYERS PASS CIDA

FOLLOWING REPEATS OUAGADOUGOU 437 ACTION DEPT INFO ABIDJAN
BAMAKO DAKAR NDJAMENA NIAMEY NOUAKCHOTT FEB 20TH

QUOTE

UNCLAS OUAGADOUGOU 0437

AIDAC

ABIDJAN FOR REDSO

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: SHORT TERM ASSISTANCE NEEDS - UPPER VOLTA

REFS: A. STATE 16090 B. OUAGA A-004 OF 1/23/75

C. OUAGA 0404 D. OUAGA 0358 E. STATE 25942

1. AS REPORTED REF B, HARVEST THIS YEAR IS GOOD AND EXPECTED TO
PRODUCE ABOUT 1,000,000 MT BASIC SUBSISTENCE CROPS, I.E., SORGHUM,
MILLET AND CORN, COMPARED TO 1973-74 HARVEST OF 720,000 MT. THIS
IS ENOUGH FOOD IN-COUNTRY TO MEET 1975 CONSUMPTION NEEDS, IF
PROPERLY DISTRIBUTED AND IF FARMERS DO NOT RETAIN EXCESSIVE
STOCKS TO RECONSTITUTE INDIVIDUAL FARM RESERVES DEPLETED OVER
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PRIOR DROUGHT YEARS. ALL OBSERVERS CONCUR, HOWEVER, THAT SOME
GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED FREE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD WILL BE NECESSARY
TO MEET LOCALIZED NEEDS RESULTING FROM SUCH DISASTERS AS FLOODING
IN KONGOUSSI AND CONTINUING DROUGHT IN BARSALOGHO. IN ADDITION,

ALL CONCUR THAT CONDITIONS IN UPPER VOLTAN SAHEL - NORTHERN THIRD OF COUNTRY - DIFFER FROM CONDITIONS ELSEWHERE. HERE GAP BETWEEN FOOD NEEDS AND RESOURCES WILL BECOME APPARENT AND PROBABLY SERIOUS BEFORE NEXT HARVEST. REASONS ARE THIS AREA YIELDS SMALLER CROP EVEN IN GOOD YEARS, -AD COMPARATIVELY HEAVY INSECT INFESTATIONS IN 1974 AND ATTEMPTS BY CATTLE RAISERS TO INCREASE HERDS DECIMATED BY DROUGHT WILL RESULT IN LOWER SALES AND SUBSEQUENTLY LESS CASH TO BUY GRAINS. SUCH KNOWLEDGABLE OBSERVERS AS GAYARD OF RED CROSS AND PERE BIDEAU OF UNION FRATERNEL DES CROYANTS BELIEVE NEEDS WILL BECOME SEVERE BY MAY/JUNE. MORE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAY JULY/AUGUST. ESTIMATES OF POSSIBLE NUMBERS CONCERNED RANGE AROUND 35-40,000 PERSONS.

2. GOUV FULLY AWARE THIS SITUATION AND WORKING CONSCIENTIOUSLY TO MEET NEEDS. SOUS-COMITE CHARGED WITH EMERGENCY FREE DISTRIBUTIONS HAS PREPOSITIONED IN SAHEL APPROXIMATELY 3,000 MT GRAIN REMAINING FROM 1974 DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS AS REPORTED REF C. SOME ADDITIONAL SOUS-COMITE WAREHOUSING CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN SAHEL FOR PRE-POSITIONING GRAIN AND R&R-FINANCED WAREHOUSES IN FIVE SAHEL LOCATIONS EXPECTED BE AVAILABLE BY END OF MARCH. THIS PROVIDES SUFFICIENT STORAGE CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT GOUV SECURITY STOCKS PLAN WHICH CONSTITUTES KING-PIN OF DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS PLANNING. GOUV HAS PREPARED UNUSUALLY DETAILED AND WELL-PLANNED PROJECT PAPER ON SECURITY STOCKS (COPY BEING POUCHED) ACCORDING TO WHICH 20,000 MT GRAIN CAN BE PREPOSITIONED IN 15 SAHEL AND NEAR-SAHEL SITES. GOUV PLANNING INDICATES SUFFICIENT TRANSPORT AVAILABLE TO ORD'S TO MOVE GRAIN, ESPECIALLY WHEN SUPPLEMENTED BY SIZEABLE PRIVATE TRANSPORT FLEET WHICH HAS GROWN CONSIDERABLY DURING DROUGHT YEARS, WHICH PROVED A BOON TO THIS INDUSTRY. GRAIN PURCHASES FOR SECURITY NEEDS WILL BE BY ORD'S WITH OSRO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. ORD'S IN SUB-SAHEL AREA WILL BE PRIMARILY CHARGED THIS RESPONSIBILITY, WITH MORE SOUTHERN ORD'S SUPPLYING ADDITIONAL GRAIN AS NEEDED TO CONSTITUTE REQUIRED LEVEL SECURITY STOCKS.

3. ON SPOILAGE PREVENTION MEASURES, BOTH SOUS-COMITE AND ORD'S HAVE TAKEN SOME STEPS. SOUS-COMITE HAS BOUGHT LARGE NUMBER WOODEN PALLETS FOR OUAGADOUGOU AND SAHEL STORAGE AREAS AND BOTH HAVE SOME, UNCLASSIFIED

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THOUGH LIMITED, FUMIGATION CAPACITY.

4. FOR DISEASE INCIDENCE MONITORING IN SAHEL, ASIDE FROM REASONABLY DISPERSED SOUS-PREFET LEVEL INFIRMERIES, SAHEL AREA HAS SAVE CHILDREN FUND CLINIC IN GOROM AND AUSTRALIAN-RUN CLINIC IN DJIBO. SCF PRIMARILY FOCUSES ON MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH AND ON MALNUTRITION, BUT BOTH ARE AVAILABLE FOR GENERAL HEALTH PROBLEMS AND HAVE BEEN SUPPLEMENTED BY R&R-FUNDED FIELD HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT. MOBILE HEALTH UNITS ARE ALREADY IN USE IN THE SAHEL AREA.

5. OFFICIAL MEASURES TO ACCOMMODATE POSSIBLE RECURRENCE DROUGHT REFUGEES, ESPECIALLY AMONG NOMADIC GROUPS, ARE MORE LIMITED. PREVIOUS ENCAMPMENT AREAS NEAR GOROM, WHICH WAS CENTER MALIAN NOMAD

REFUGEES IN 1973-74, NOW VIRTUALLY EMPTY BUT STILL AVAILABLE SHOULD NEED ARISE. SOUS-PREFECT CONTINUES CLAIM THERE ARE 10,000 MALIAN REFUGEES SCATTERED OVER SOUS-PREFECTURE BUT THIS FIGURE PROBABLY OVERESTIMATED, ALTHOUGH IS CERTAIN THAT MANY SUCH PERSONS HAVE BLENDED IN WITH VOLTAN NOMADS OF SIMILAR ETHNIC BACKGROUND. BOTH GAYARD'S RED CROSS MILK SUPPLY PROGRAM AND PERE BIDEAU'S UNION FRATERNAL REFUGEE CLINIC AND MILK DISTRIBUTION CENTER IN GOROM WILL NO LONGER OPERATE AS BOTH ARE BEING CLOSED DOWN SINCE LOCAL AUTHORITIES STATE DISTRIBUTION CAN BE HANDLED THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS.

6. DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES (DSA) ACTIVELY PLANNING INCREASED PLANT PROTECTION SERVICES FOR 1975 GROWING SEASON. IN ADDITION TO PROJECT DESCRIBED REF D, DSA HAS PROVIDED COPIES 7 OTHER PROPOSALS INCLUDING ANTI-GRASSHOPPER AND ANTI-CRICKET MEASURES. AS NOTED REF D, CDO WILL PROVIDE THESE PROPOSALS TO VISITING PLANT PROTECTION TEAM FOR EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

7. IN ASSISTING GOUV COORDINATE ANTI-DROUGHT MEASURES, OSRO HAS PLAYED VARYING ROLE. IN 1973-74, OSRO'S LOCAL OFFICE PLAYED SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN COORDINATING DONOR FOOD SHIPMENTS, BUT BY 1974 HARVEST SEASON HAD PHASED OUT LOCALLY. OSRO SPONSORSHIP OF NOVEMBER MULTI-DONOR MISSION WAS ALSO VERY USEFUL MEASURE IN HARMONIZING DONOR-RECIPIENTS' VIEWS ON FOOD NEEDS. OSRO NOW PREPARING PLAY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN GOUV SECURITY STOCKS ACQUISITION, AS DESCRIBED BELOW. ON BALANCE, OSRO HAS GOOD RECORD AND REPUTATION WITH GOUV AND LOCAL DONOR REPRESENTATIVES.

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8. MOST SIGNIFICANT STEP BEING TAKEN BY GOUV WHICH WOULD BENEFIT BY AID ASSISTANCE IS ACQUISITION OF SECURITY STOCKS. ACCORDING DETAILED PLAN PRESENTED CDO, GOUV INTENDS ACQUIRE 20,000 MT GRAIN BETWEEN FEB. 1 AND JULY 31. THIS EFFORT IS HEADED BY NEWLY CREATED NATIONAL COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF MINISTER OF PLAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DAKOURE), PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SANON) DSA DIRECTOR (KABORE) AND OTHERS AS APPOINTED BY GOUV. NATIONAL COMMITTEE WILL DECIDE ON THE COMPOSITION, QUANTITY, STORAGE LOCATION, USE AND TURN-OVER OF STOCKS. OSRO/UNDP WILL ADMINISTER DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS FINANCING OPERATION AND WILL CLOSELY MONITOR IMPLEMENTATION. PROGRAM WILL BE EXECUTED UNDER DIRECTION 3-MAN TEAM, CONSISTING ONE VOLTAN AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIAN AND TWO OSRO EXPERTS, ONE IN STORAGE AND OTHER IN PURCHASING AND MANAGEMENT. OSRO EXPERTS EXPECTED ARRIVE OUAGA NEXT WEEK FOR PROMPT COMMENCEMENT ACQUISITION PLAN.

9. ACCORDING TO GOUV FIGURES, ORD'S HAD PURCHASED 6,730 MT AS OF DEC. 21, OUT OF ANTICIPATED SEASON ACQUISITION OF 46,500 MT. DURING LAST 6 WEEKS, LITTLE ADDITIONAL HAS BEEN PURCHASED FOR LACK OF FUNDS. SECURITY STOCKS PLAN IS DESIGNED TO MEET ORD FUNDING NEED BUT ONLY FOR 20,000 MT TO BE HELD FOR POSSIBLE EMERGENCY FEEDING AS DETERMINED BY NATIONAL COMMITTEE. TO DATE, WEST GERMANY IS

CONTRIBUTING 2.5 MILLION DEUTSCHMARKS, EQUALLING APPROXIMATELY 227 MILLION CFA. THIS IS EXPECTED TO PURCHASE 7,000 MT. IN ADDITION, GOUV STATES WFP HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR IN-COUNTRY PURCHASES TO ACQUIRE 1,500 TONS. AUSTRIAN TEAM EXPECTED THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO PROGRAM. GOUV CONTINUES TO REQUEST OTHER DONOR SUPPORT, INCLUDING THAT OF AID. PROBABLY DUE PROLONGED ABSENCE DAKOURE, GOUV HAS NOT YET BROUGHT PRESSURE ON AID TO IMPLEMENT DEC. 14 UNDERSTANDING TO CONSIDER CONTRIBUTION AS DESCRIBED REF E.

10. BASED ON ABOVE, TWO CONCLUSIONS SEEM APPARENT IN CURRENT CONTEXT. FIRST, THERE WILL BE NEED FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION THIS SUMMER, ALTHOUGH EXACT EXTENT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT. IF 1975 RAINS INSUFFICIENT, NEEDS WILL BE DRAMATICALLY INCREASED DURING ENSUING YEAR. ON THIS BASIS, ESTABLISHMENT OF 20,000 MT SECURITY STOCKS SEEN REASONABLE TARGET FOR ANTICIPATED NEEDS AND NEW DROUGHT CONTINGENCY. SECONDLY, GERMAN, WFP AND POSSIBLE AUSTRIAN CONTRIBUTIONS WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO PERMIT ACQUISITION OF 20,000 MT GOAL. IF THIS QUANTITY NOT ACQUIRED IN-COUNTRY BY JULY AND IF UNCLASSIFIED

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MOST GLOOMY PREDICTION SAHEL NEED REALIZED AND/OR IF 1975 RAINS NOT EQUIVALENT THOSE OF 1974, ADDITIONAL GRAIN WILL BE REQUIRED, PROBABLY RESULTING IN NECESSITY NEW DONOR FOOD CONTRIBUTIONS. FOR THESE REASONS, AND AS FURTHER SPUR TO OTHER DONOR PARTICIPATION, REQUEST AID/W CONSIDER PARTICIPATION THIS FUND NOW. THE TWO CONDITIONS OF DEC. 14 CONVERSATION, I.E., OTHER DONOR PARTICIPATION AND OSRO TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT OF FINANCIAL AND MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MET BY GERMAN/WFP CONTRIBUTIONS AND INSTALLATION OSRO IMPLEMENTING TEAM IN OUAGA. SUGGEST APPROPRIATE USG CONTRIBUTION, BASED ON 25 PERCENT OF OTHER DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS AND ASSUMING FULL 20,000 MT QUANTITY EVENTUALLY FUNDED, SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT PURCHASE 5,000 MT, ESTIMATED AT \$750,000, ALTHOUGH INCREASINGLY UNFAVORABLE EXCHANGE RATE MAY RAISE THIS FIGURE. FUNDING ESTIMATE BASED ON 33.56 CFA PER KILO PURSUANT CALCULATIONS IN GOUV PLANNING DOCUMENTS AIRPOUCHED. GOUV CLEARLY CONSIDERS THIS PROJECT ITS SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT EFFORT TO MEET SHORT-TERM NEEDS IN VOLTAN SAHEL. AID CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE CONSIDERED MOST SIGNIFICANT SHORT-TERM CONTRIBUTION AID CAN MAKE FOR SAHEL DROUGHT CONTINGENCIES AT THIS TIME.

11. CDO PREPARING TRIP ACROSS VOLTAN SAHEL NEXT WEEK, VISITING TITAO, DJIBO, ARIBINDA, GOROM, DORI AND SEBBA. WILL REPORT OBSERVATIONS UPON RETURN. GRAHAM UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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